than shall biannually review the implementation of the agreed measures of cooperation with special focus on their efficacy in regard to combating trans-border crimes, in addition to the work relating to the maintenance of boundary pillers. During their meetings, they may also agree on such measures including meetings at intermediary level, as may be conducive to improve cooperation between the two Border Security Forces.

(b) The Border Security Forces shall undertake simultaneous coordinated patrolling along the India-Pakistan border and the patrols shall be briefed and debriefed jointly. The concerned officials from the two Border Security Forces will meet in June 1989 to finalise the modalities and implementation of this arrangement.

2. Cooperative Arrangements to combat Drug Trafficking and Smuggling:

(a) Coverage of information to be exchanged between the two countries should be widened to include organisation, power, functions and addresses of different enforcement agencies, training material equipment, legislation, data regarding seizures and other related matters, including *modus operandi*, routes followed etc.

(b) There was merit in taking steps for harmonisation of laws against drug trafficking so that drug traffickers, in order to avoid harsher punishment in one country, do not flee to or operate from the other country.

(c) There was need for intensifying enforcement of drug laws for interception/interdiction of the drug traffic on both sides and for mounting a special vigil against their trans-border movement.

3. Cooperative arrangements to deal with fugitives from law etc.:

(a) The interpol Chiefs and their representatives in both countries should have greater interaction at personal level including fresh periodic meetings.

(b) The FIA in Pakistan and CBI in India, acting as the nodal agencies and in concert with other appropriate agencies in their respective countries, should take appropriate action in tracing out and arranging to hand over to the other countries wanted and absconding criminals. The modalities of actions in this regard is to be worked out by the FIA and the CBI representatives through discussions within the next three months.

(c) The concerned agencies should act in close cooperation in neutralisation of organised gangs and touts indulging in infiltration of large groups of people in pursuit of employment etc. in each others country.

Refusal to Issue Visas to Members of Amnesty International to visit India

@997. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that members of the Amnesty International have recently been refused visas by the Indian High Commission, London to visit the country to conduct a research on human rights;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the members of the Amnesty have been allowed to visit the country on previous occasions for research on human rights in the country; and

@Previously Unstarred Questions 204, transferred from the 19th July, 1989

(c) if the answer to part (a) and (b) above be in affirmative, what are the reasons for refusal to grant permission to the Amnesty members to visit the country this time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Continuation of Monopoly Cotton Procurement scheme in Maharashtra

@998. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra had approached the Union Government to continue the Monopoly Cotton Procurement Scheme in the State; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Union Government have agreed for extension of the Maharashtra Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme with effect from 1-7-89.

Identification of Flood Prone Areas in Assam

@@999. SHRIMATI VIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had identified flood-prone areas in Assam specially the areas where floods usually cause devastation on massive scale; and

(b) if so, the number of such areas; identified so far and the measures proposed to be taken when situation demands in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b) Rashtriya Barh Ayog assessed the areas prone to floods in Assam as 3.15 Million hectares. Among others Brahmaputra sub-basin, Buridihing sub-basin in Dibrugarh district, Disang and Dikhow sub-basins in Sibsagar district, Majuli area in Jorhat district, Kopili sub-basin in Nowgong district, Manas and Baki sub-basins in Barpeta district, Pagladiya and Puthimari sub-basins in Nalbari district, Gangadhar sub-basin and South Salmara area in Dhubri district experience floods causing considerable damage. Apart from structural measures like marginal embankments and drainage channels, non-structural measures adopted for such areas are Flood Forecasting and regulation of economic activities in the floods prone areas and evacuation of persons to safer places during the periods of excessive floods.

Pollution in Raniganj and Jharia Coalfields

1000. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:

DR. R. K. PODDAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of pollution in Raniganj and Jharia Coalfields;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to improve the environmental quality in this area?

@Previously Unstarred Question 465, transferred from the 21st July, 1989.

@Previously Unstarred Question 492, transferred from the 21st July, 1989.